

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03075 230933Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /049 W
-----014127 230936Z /14

O R 230655Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7983
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT ON VIOLENCE IN SRI LANKA

REF: COLOMBO 3069 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO ALL REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED, THE PEAK OF VIOLENCE SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED AND THE SITUATION IN MOST AREAS IS FAST RETURNING TO NORMAL. THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUING SERIES OF MINOR INCIDENTS, BUT NO REPORTS OF MAJOR DISTURBANCES. NEW AREAS IN WHICH INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED ARE VAVUNIYA, BAT-TICALOA, KATURAGAMA, MATARA, AND TRINCOMALEE, WITH DEATHS REPORTED IN THE LATTER TWO AREAS. TRINCOMALEE IS THE ONLY AREA FOR WHICH THE CURFEW HAS NOT BEEN LIFTED FOR TODAY, AUGUST 23. IT WILL BE CONTINUOUS THERE UNTIL 0600 AUGUST 24.

2. THE LATEST ESTIMATE ON THE NUMBER OF DEATHS IS 54, BUT THE ACTUAL FIGURE MAY WELL BE HIGHER. INCLUDED IN THE DEATHS
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 03075 230933Z

ARE AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WHO HAVE BEEN SHOT AS LOOTERS BY SECURITY FORCES. THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS GROWING. THERE REPORTEDLY ARE ABOUT 15,000 PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND WHO HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE FROM THE VIOLENCE, MOST OF WHOM ARE PROBABLY TAMIL. APPROXIMATELY 3,000 REFUGEES ARE IN COLOMBO CAMPS AND 1,500 IN GALLE. REPORTEDLY, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING A SHIP TO EVACUATE RE-

FUGEES FROM GALLE AND COLOMBO TO JAFFNA.

(COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS WOULD BE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, BUT IN ANY CASE IT WOULD SEEM TO BE THE SORT OF ACTION THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER POLARIZATION OF THE TAMIL AND SINHALESE COMMUNITIES.)

3. THE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE WHILE AN INCONVENIENCE FOR TOURISTS HAS NOT PRESENTED ANY THREATS TO THEM. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACTIVELY ASSISTED THEM WHENEVER NECESSARY, EVEN FLYING A GROUP FROM TRINCOMALEE TO COLOMBO BY GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT.

4. THERE WILL BE AN ISLAND-WIDE CURFEW ON THE ISLAND FROM 2000 AUGUST 23 TO 0400 AUGUST 24. PRESENT PLANS ARE, IF THE SITUATION CONTINUES UNDER CONTROL, TO REDUCE GRADUALLY THE LENGTH OF THE CURFEW HOURS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE GOVERNMENT DETERMINES THE CURFEW CAN BE LIFTED ENTIRELY.
WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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